

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 187
By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to commend Kenny Blackburn for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee and to congratulate him upon receiving the 2003 National Conference for Community and Justice Human Relations Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Kenny Blackburn is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; he has recently been selected to receive the 2003 National Conference for Community and Justice Human Relations Award; and

WHEREAS, a native of Xenia, Ohio, Mr. Blackburn graduated from Central State University in 1972, and attended graduate school at Fisk University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blackburn is a highly respected member of the Nashville community, and he has long served the people of Nashville and Tennessee in many areas, including education, government, and economic and community development; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as Vice President of External Affairs for BellSouth, Kenny Blackburn has distinguished himself as a dedicated professional, public-spirited citizen of the highest order, and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, he currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Bank of Nashville, the University of Tennessee Development Council, the Central Business Improvement District, the Cumberland Club of Nashville, Tennessee State University's Foundation Board, and the Maryland Farms YMCA; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blackburn has previously served on the Boards of Directors for Cheekwood, United Cerebral Palsy, the American Cancer Society, the Music City Bowl, and the Williamson County Chamber of Commerce, and served as Chairman for the Brentwood Chamber of Commerce and United Way of Metropolitan Nashville; and

WHEREAS, in addition, he is an advisory board member of the Legal Aid Society, the W.O. Smith School of Music, and Kids on the Block; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blackburn has previously served on the advisory board of the School of Business at Tennessee State University, and he is past President of the Tennessee Lobbyist Association; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of the nominating committee for the Cumberland Valley Girl Scouts and a member of the Columbia State Community College Foundation Board; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blackburn is an active member of the Exchange Club of Nashville, and he serves on the nominating committee for Bethlehem Centers of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, he is an alumnus of Leadership Nashville, and served as Chairman of the Community Celebration Task Force that organized Nashville's 1996 Olympic Torch Run; and

WHEREAS, Kenny Blackburn is being recognized by the National Conference for Community and Justice for his long-standing efforts in promoting public service, justice, and equal opportunity; and

WHEREAS, he has positively affected countless lives through his vision, dedication, and hard work on behalf of the causes of civil rights, human rights, and tolerance and understanding; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blackburn truly embodies the spirit and mission of the National Conference for Community and Justice, an organization dedicated to fighting prejudice and

hatred, as well as to promoting understanding and respect among all races, religions, and cultures; and

WHEREAS, Kenny Blackburn's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with and relate to people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, he is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Kenny Blackburn is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Kenny Blackburn for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as the recipient of the 2003 National Conference for Community and Justice Human Relations Award and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.